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453.01 Introduction

Most Washington rivers are protected or under consideration for protection by either a federal, state, or local government agency. This chapter includes information and requirements that apply when a transportation project will impact a river designated as a federal Wild and Scenic River or part of Washington's Scenic River System.

(1) **Summary of Requirements**

Both federal and state legislation protects the wild and scenic values of certain rivers. Transportation projects may adversely affect wild and scenic rivers if they are within a one-quarter-mile of a river shoreline and:

- Require an EIS, EA, or SEPA checklist.
- Require new right-of-way, earth moving, grading, or pile driving.
- Involve bridge replacement.

For such projects, both WSDOT and FHWA encourage early coordination with responsible management agencies. If the river area meets Section 4(f) criteria for protection of certain parks, recreational areas, wildlife or waterfowl refuges, and historic properties, a Section 4(f) report may be required in addition to a NEPA document (see [Section 455.05](#)). For possible permitting requirements, see [Section 431.06](#).

(2) **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

None specific to wild and scenic rivers. Others are found in the general list in [Appendix A](#).

(3) **Glossary**

See [Appendix B](#) for a general glossary of terms used in the EPM.

* Web sites and navigation referenced in this chapter are subject to change. For the most current links, please refer to the online version of the EPM, available through the ESO home page: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/>

(a) **Federal Wild and Scenic River Definitions**

Designated River – River area added to the National Rivers System by an act of Congress.

Nationwide Rivers Inventory – A national listing of rivers potentially suitable for inclusion in the National Rivers System.

Recreational River Areas – Rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Scenic River Areas – Rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundment, with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Study River – River area to be studied to determine if it qualifies for addition to the National Rivers System.

Wild River Areas – Areas or sections of rivers of the United States that are free of impoundment and generally inaccessible, except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially un-touched and waters unpolluted. They represent vestiges of America prior to European settlement.

(b) **State Scenic River Definitions**

Modified Natural – River area where the associated natural environment of the river area is relatively undisturbed with little evidence of cultural development and natural resource management. Forest roads, hunters' cabins, and semi-primitive campgrounds may be evident. Natural features dominate the viewscape.

Primitive – River area that is in pristine condition with minimal evidence of human activity.

Rural – River area characterized by extensive agricultural and other resource-related activities. Cultural development is typically scattered homes and communities.

Urban – River area that is intensively modified by cultural activities, primarily residential and light commercial development. The river has high water quality and highly rated natural features such as historical and archaeological sites, fisheries resources, wildlife, or recreational values.

(c) **Other**

Wilderness – Areas defined in the Wilderness Act where “the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man is a visitor who does not remain...”

453.02 Applicable Statutes and Regulations

This section lists the primary statutes and regulations applicable to wild and scenic river issues. See [Appendix D](#) for a list of statutes referenced in the EPM. Permits and approvals required pursuant to these statutes are listed in [Section 453.06](#).

(1) Federal

(a) National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC Section 4321, requires that all major actions sponsored, funded, permitted, or approved by federal agencies undergo planning to ensure that environmental considerations such as impacts on Wild and Scenic Rivers are given due weight in decision-making. Federal implementing regulations are at 23 CFR 771 (FHWA) and 40 CFR 1500-1508 (CEQ). For details on NEPA procedures, see [Chapter 410](#) and [Chapter 411](#).

(b) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (PL 90-542, 16 USC Chapter 28) designates certain rivers for special protection. Federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers within Washington are:

- Skagit River and all tributaries upstream of the pipeline crossing at Sedro Woolley.
- Klickitat River from Wheeler Creek to the confluence with the Columbia River.
- White Salmon River from the confluence of Gilmer Creek (near the town of BZ Corner) to the confluence with Buck Creek.

Federally designated Study Rivers within Washington State are:

- Klickitat River upstream of the confluence of the Little Klickitat River to the Yakima Indian Reservation boundary.
- White Salmon River upstream of the confluence with Gilmer Creek.

Twenty-six Washington rivers are included on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory and are protected under CEQ regulations. In addition, several rivers that are not on the National Rivers Inventory are being proposed for special consideration by the U.S. Forest Service.

For more information about this legislation, designated rivers, and federal management agencies, see the National Wild and Scenic Rivers homepage:

 <http://www.nps.gov/rivers/>

(c) Wilderness Act

The Federal Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 USC, 1131-1136) aimed to establish a national wilderness preservation system that would protect unspoiled lands from encroachment by “permanent improvements or human habitation.” Generally, land falling under the Act is managed by the same agency that managed it prior to wilderness designation.

The Act defines wilderness as areas where “the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man is a visitor who does not remain....” Nearly 10 percent of lands in Washington are designated as wilderness.

For more information about the Act, wilderness maps, and other wilderness information, see the Wilderness Information Network Homepage:

 <http://www.wilderness.net/>

Click on legislation/policy.

Or by direct link:

 <http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=legisPolicy>

(d) National Trails System Act

The National Trails System Act (16 USC, 1241-1249) was established in 1968 to provide for recreation, public access, enjoyment, and appreciation of the “open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation.” The Act is applicable in portions of Wild and Scenic Rivers where trails systems exist. It is available online at:

 <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>

Select Title 16, Conservation, and Chapter 27, National Trails System.

Or by direct link:

 <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/ch27.html>

(e) Section 4(f) Public Lands Regulations

Section 4(f) of the 1966 Department of Transportation Act, Title 23, CFR 771.135(d), man-dates protection of certain parks, recreational areas, wildlife or waterfowl refuges, and historic properties. Highway projects can only cross these special lands if there is no feasible and prudent alternative and the sponsoring agency demonstrates that all possible planning to minimize harm has been accomplished. For details on Section 4(f) see **Section 455.02**.

This title is applicable to portions of Wild and Scenic Rivers that are being used for purposes designated in Section 4(f). Public lands adjacent to a wild and scenic river also may be subject to Section 4(f) protection.

(2) State

(a) State Environmental Policy Act

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), requires that all major actions sponsored, funded, permitted, or approved by state and/or local agencies undergo planning to ensure environmental considerations such as impacts on Wild and Scenic Rivers are given due weight in decision-making. State implementing regulations are in WAC 197-11 and WAC 468-12 (WSDOT). For details on SEPA procedures, see Chapter 410 and Chapter 411.

(b) Washington Scenic Rivers System

State scenic rivers legislation (RCW 79.72) establishes that certain rivers, due to their “outstanding natural, scenic, historic, ecological, and recreational values,” are preserved in “as natural a condition as practical

and that overuse of such rivers...shall be discouraged.” However, the program has not been funded by the Legislature since 1993.

The Skykomish River, and its tributaries upstream of the Sultan River, is the only designated State Scenic River. The Washington Scenic Rivers System also includes portions of the Skykomish, Beckler, Tye, and Little Spokane Rivers. Another 18 rivers were evaluated for state scenic river status.

453.03 Policy Guidance

(1) **Section 4(f) Involvement**

Three memoranda between the Office of Environmental Policy and FHWA (June 6, 1978, October 3, 1980, and May 26, 1981) clarify how Section 4 (f) applies to portions of wild and scenic river areas which are being used or designated for use as a park, recreation, wildlife or waterfowl refuge, or historic preservation. They state that Section 4(f) applicability to Wild and Scenic Rivers is not based solely on a system’s designation as a Wild and Scenic River, but rather on whether the system is a “significant publicly owned recreation area.” The memoranda are available online in FHWA’s Environmental Guidebook:

 <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/>

Click on Environmental Guidebook, then Wild and Scenic Rivers.

(2) **Presidential Directive**

An August 1979 Presidential Directive requires federal agencies to take care to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on rivers identified as wild, scenic, or recreational. For a detailed memorandum from the Council on Environmental Quality outlining procedures for interagency consultation to comply with this directive, see *Policy Guidance for Wild and Scenic Rivers* (October 3, 1980) in FHWA’s Environmental Guidebook:

 <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/>

Click on Environment, then Environmental Guidebook, then Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Or by direct link:

 <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/guidebook/chapters/v1ch15.htm>

453.04 Interagency Agreements

None.

453.05 Technical Guidance

Region Environmental Managers need to monitor projects in their Regions and coordinate with the Environmental Services Office and FHWA whenever a project is in the vicinity of a Wild and Scenic River. Although specific permits may not be required, rigorous environmental documentation will be necessary.

(1) **WSDOT Technical Guidance**

WSDOT has no formal discipline report for Wild and Scenic Rivers. For projects that may affect a federal or state-designated Wild or Scenic River, this section includes general guidance for assessing potential requirements in a Wild and Scenic Rivers Project Report.

When necessary, this report will be prepared and discuss the projects relationship to any impacts on Wild and Scenic Rivers. The report will provide background information on rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. The report needs to analyze any effects of the project on the rivers “outstanding remarkable values” and recommend mitigation measures as required by the Act. The report will conclude with a determination of effects to rivers that are designated or are eligible for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. (P.L. 90-542, as amended and 16 USC 1271-1287).

Most rivers in Washington are protected or under consideration for protection by either a federal, state, or local governmental agency. There is currently no organized clearinghouse for project review. [Exhibit 453-1](#) gives details on wilderness and scenic values by river reach for all Washington rivers listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory.

Projects have the potential for adversely affecting wild and scenic rivers if they are within a one-quarter-mile of a river shoreline and:

- Require an EIS, EA, or SEPA checklist.
- Require new right-of-way, earth moving, grading, or pile driving.
- Involve bridge replacement.

For such projects, the WSDOT regional staff should contact the appropriate agency. If the project is in or near a national forest, the district ranger should also be contacted.

Management plans have been developed for each Wild and Scenic River. These plans must be reviewed as part of the Section 4(f) study (see [Section 455.05](#)), and will help determine whether Section 4(f) is applicable. For each alternative that would take such land, coordination with the agency responsible for managing the river will provide information on the management plan, specific affected land uses, and any necessary Section 4(f) coordination.

Responsible agencies are:

State Parks and Recreation Commission - Responsible for managing all state scenic rivers. Local agencies also administer State Scenic Rivers through their Shoreline Management Plans. Contact the appropriate regional State Parks office for projects near a Scenic River corridor or State Park.

National Park Service, Recreation Programs - Responsible for managing all rivers on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory.

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker Ranger District - Manages the Skagit Wild and Scenic River.

Columbia River Gorge Commission - Manages the Klickitat and White Salmon Wild and Scenic Rivers. It also monitors activities within the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area which includes SR 14.

Many of these agencies will only review projects at the permit stage, which could result in costly delays and modifications. Contact should be initiated early if there is a possibility of adverse effect in order to identify any agency concerns.

For relatively simple projects, an easy way to make the contact is to circulate a SEPA checklist to the responsible agency. Written contact should occur at the scoping stage for a project requiring an EA or EIS. A similar contact should be made with the appropriate local agency if a state scenic river is involved. If there is no response to written contact, it is assumed that the project is not within a Wild and Scenic River corridor or will not cause adverse effects.

If adverse impacts are likely, request assistance in writing from the administering agency and address agency comments and concerns. All reasonable measures to avoid or mitigate should be considered. Document the coordination and commitments made and include them in project design and construction documents.

(2) FHWA Technical Advisory

FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (October 1987) gives guidelines for preparing NEPA and 4(f) documents, including specifically sections on Wild and Scenic Rivers. If a proposed action could have adverse effects on a river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System or a river under study for designation, the draft EIS should identify early coordination with the agency responsible for managing the listed or studied river.

For each alternative, the EIS should identify the potential adverse effects on natural, cultural, and recreational values. Adverse effects include alteration of the free-flowing nature of the river, alteration of the setting, or deterioration of water quality. If it is determined that any of the alternatives could foreclose options to a designated or study river, or adversely affect the qualities for which a river was designated, the draft EIS needs to reflect consultations with the managing agency on avoiding or mitigation the impacts (23 CFR 771.123). The final EIS should identify measures that will be included in the preferred alternative to avoid or mitigate such impacts.

See **Section 455.05** for Section 4(f) requirements.

For more on the Technical Advisory, see FHWA's home page:

 <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>

Click on Legislation and Regulations, then FHWA Directives and Policy Memorandums, then FHWA Technical Advisories, then T6640.8.

Or by direct link:

 <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/techadvs/t664008a.htm>

453.06 Permits and Approvals

No specific permits are required for Wild and Scenic Rivers. However, close agency coordination is needed on studies, agency determination of impacts and possible mitigations, and selection of alternatives. Projects affecting Wild and Scenic Rivers may be subject to one or more of the permits listed in **Section 431.06**, Water Quality.

453.07 Non-Road Project Requirements

The same policies, procedures, and permits that apply to road projects generally apply to non-road projects; for example emergency airstrips or rail lines located near a designated wild or scenic river.

453.08 Exhibits

Exhibit 453-1 – Values Identified for Washington Rivers Listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory.

Values Identified for Washington Rivers Listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory

River Name	Physiographic Section	Counties	Congressional Districts	Segment Reach Description	Length (miles)	Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV)							Narrative Description of Values
						Scenic	Recreation	Geologic	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	
Bogachiel and North Fork	24a	Clallam Jefferson	3	The entire mainstem and North Fork from source to confluence with Soleduck River. Mainstream North Fork	44 7	x	x		x	x			A major river on the Olympic Peninsula. The upper portion is a pristine mountain on unroaded national park land with steep gradients, cascades, falls, and rapids. The low river is slower, wider and meanders through coastal forest with scattered agricultural and recreation development. Outstanding anadromous fishery. Recreational boating on lower river. Excellent water quality, although clay banks along lower river cause some discoloration. Important habitat for wildlife, including elk and bald eagles.
Chiwawa River	23a	Chelan	4	Entire length.	30		x						Relatively pristine mountain stream fed from Glacier Peak Wilderness Area; flows through mixed terrain of moderately steep valleys and wider meadows. Opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, rafting, and fishing.
Cispus River	23b	Lewis Skamania	2 4	Entire length	52	x	x		x				A fixed channel and braided river flowing through mainly undeveloped heavily forested areas. Large subalpine meadows near the headwaters with majestic views of the Goat Rock Wilderness. Important resident fishery resource. Considerable boating potential.

River Name	Physio Section	Counties	Congressional	Segment Reach Description	Length	ORV							Narrative Description of Values
						Scenic	Recreation	Geologic	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	
Columbia River	20a	Benton Franklin Grant Yakima	4 5	From Priest Rapids Dam downstream to slack water at McNary Pool (Lake Wallula)	55				x	x		x	The Hanford Reach is the only remaining significant free-flowing section of the Columbia River in the United States, and it represents the most diverse fish and wildlife habitat on the mid-Columbia River. The area is used by bald eagles, peregrine falcons, Canada geese, and an assortment of other species, as well as a large variety of fish types. Largely undeveloped, it flows through the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. A large number of archaeological sites have been identified.
Cowlitz River	23b	Lewis	2	From its source downstream to the confluence with the Cispus River.	42			x					Fixed channel and looped meandering river draining the southeast slopes of Mt. Rainier, and carrying significant amounts of glacial debris; being a fine example of an outwash stream. Excellent fishing resource.
Dosewallips River	24b	Jefferson	3	Entire length.	28	x		x					High scenic values, especially of the surrounding Olympic Mountains. Undeveloped, wilderness stream; clear water and unrestricted flow with numerous rapids, cascades, and small waterfalls. Dense forestation and good outcrop examples of Olympic Peninsula geology. Rises in Olympic National Park. Some kayaking in lowest reaches.
Duckabush River	24a 24b	Jefferson	3	Entire length.	24	x		x					Scenic views of surrounding Olympic mountains. Undeveloped, wilderness stream; clear, unrestricted flow with numerous rapids, cascades, and waterfalls. Subalpine meadows in the upper valley reach and very heavy forestation in the lower reaches. Rises in Olympic National Park.

River Name	Physio Section	Counties	Congressional District	Segment Reach Description	Length	ORV								Narrative Description of Values
						Scenic	Recreation	Geologic	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	
Hoh River	24b	Jefferson		Entire length.	55	x	x	x	x					Considerable braided, glacier fed coastal river rising in Olympic National Park. Flows through a highly diverse landscape, including rare rain forest. Sustains considerable fishing and recreation; important winter steelhead resource; canoeing and rafting. Premier example of a high flow, glacial river, with superb scenic values.
Humptulips River & West Fork	24b	Grays Harbor		Entire mainstem and West Fork.	61	x	x		x					Good example of a coastal stream rising in higher mountainous regions and flowing through a diversity of landscape types. Upper undeveloped portion is a fixed channel, steep stream, while lower looped meander portion is low gradient. One of the most important winter steelhead resources – excellent recreational fishing resource. Canoeing and kayaking, potential rafting.
Kettle River	19	Ferry Stevens	5	Entire Washington portion.	54	x	x				x			Gently meandering stream flowing through historic mining region. Good scenic values and sufficient year-round flow and grade for premier canoeing and floating opportunities.
Klickitat River	23b	Klickitat	4	From the southern boundary of the Yakima Indian Reservation downstream to the confluence with the Columbia River.	48	x		x	x					Major canyon with high scenic values; fishing and some boating. Important summer Washington steelhead fishing stream.

River Name	Physio Section	Counties	Congress Districts	Segment Reach Description	Length	ORV							Narrative Description of Values	
						Scenic	Recreation	Geologic	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural		Other
Methow River	19	Okanogan	4	The entire mainstem from source to mouth, and the major tributary, Chewack River. Methow River Chewack River	80 41	x	x		x	x				A long river which drains the northern portion of the eastern slope Cascades. Headwaters are in a narrowly inclined valley on mostly unroaded national forest land, while most of the valley is privately owned agricultural land. The pastoral valley, combined with the nearby backdrop of Cascade peaks, makes the river visually appealing. Scenery from the river itself is relatively natural because of streamside vegetation and cliffs. Supports a wide range of recreational boating. A major anadromous/resident fishing stream with excellent pool/riffle ratio and clear water. A major wintering area for big game and raptors, including bald eagles.
Nisqually River	23b	Lewis Pierce	2	From Nisqually glacier downstream to Alder Reservoir.	28	x		x						Classic example of Alaska-type glacier fed stream. Cold, silty water in numerous braids, beginning in Mt. Rainier National Park. Course generally broad and shallow with numerous gravel bars and log debris. Essentially undeveloped.
Nooksack River and South Fork and Middle Fork and Wells Creek	23a	Whatcom Skagit	2	The upper mainstem from its source downstream to its confluence with the South Fork and the entire South and Middle Forks and Wells Creek.	35 37 20	x	x	x	x	x				High flow, glacier-fed river system rising in Mt. Baker-Mt. Shuksan area. Important salmon resource, and good Dolly Varden trout run. Sustains substantial boating use. Winter meeting area for eagles. Many cascades and waterfalls, including Nooksack Falls on the main North Fork.

River Name	Physio Section	Counties	Congress Districts	Segment Reach Description	Length	ORV							Narrative Description of Values	
						Scenic	Recreation	Geologic	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural		Other
Palouse River	20a	Whitman Adams Franklin	5	From Colfax downstream to the confluence with the Snake River.	72			x						Varies from upper meandered portion to lower canyon with vertical walls cut in Columbia basalt, providing excellent examples of volcanic formations, including Little Palouse and Palouse Falls (185-ft drop).
Rock Creek	20a	Whitman Adams Franklin	5	Entire length.	52			x						Flows through sparsely vegetated channeled scabland region; stream course includes a series of narrow, natural lakes located in small vertical-walled canyons cut in Columbia basalt. Good columnar jointing and other geologic formations. Upper portion essentially undeveloped.
Skagit River and tributaries		Skagit, Snohomish		Segment from town of Mount Vernon to and including the mouth of Bacon Creek; Cascade River between its mouth and junction of its North and South Forks; South Fork to boundary of Glacier Peak Wilderness Area; Suiattle River from its mouth to Glacier Peak Wilderness Area boundary at Milk Creek; Sauk River from its mouth to its junction with Elliott Creek; North Fork of Sauk River from its junction with South Fork of Sauk to Glacier Peak Wilderness Area boundary.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Skykomish River and North and South Forks	23a	Snohomish King	2	South Fork, North Fork and mainstem from source to confluence with Snoqualmie River, including major tributaries (Beckler R., Tye R., Miller R. and Foss River)		x	x		x					A major Western Washington river accessible by highway, close to large urban population. Highly scenic mountain valley. Exceptional boulder and floodway zones. Clear water with rapids, cascades and falls in upper reaches. Braided streamway corridor with outstanding accretion beaches and gravel bars in lower reaches. Substantial runs of anadromous fish and high wildlife diversity. Supports wide variety of recreational boating. Portions are in the State Scenic and Recreational Rivers System.
				Mainstream	54									
				South Fork & Tributaries	26									
				North Fork	28									

River Name	Physio Section	Counties	Congress Districts	Segment Reach Description	Length	ORV							Narrative Description of Values
						Scenic	Recreation	Geologic	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	
Middle Fork Snoqualmie River	23a	King	2	From its source downstream to a point approximately four miles upstream from the confluence with the South Fork.	31	x	x		x				A fixed channel stream of high and moderate gradients rising from a tarn lake amid alpine meadows and rugged mountain slopes. Essentially undeveloped; excellent white water opportunities in lower reaches. Resident fish resource.
Soleduck River	24a	Clallam	3	Entire length.	65				x				Both fixed and looped meander channel pattern in the lower valley reaches, with low to moderate gradients and flow. Major Olympic drainage flowing through thickly forested areas. Produces some of the largest winter steelhead fish. Flows near well-known and developed hot springs area.
Tucannon River	20a 20b	Columbia Garfield	5	Entire length.	57				x	x	x		Undeveloped upper portion; flows primarily in flat floored, steep-sided valley, past several small lakes. Good example of rejuvenated, underfit stream with present channel flowing within a narrow floodplain, well-defined by former mature meander pattern. Excellent fish and wildlife habitat. Some boating.
Wenatchee River	23a	Chelan	4	From Wenatchee Lake downstream to the confluence with Icicle Creek.	30	x	x	x					Major eastern Cascades river which sustains considerable white-water boating and fishing. Includes spectacular Tumwater Canyon. Heavily used commercial rafting river in the lower reaches and popular canoeing stream near Lake Wenatchee.
White River	23a	Chelan	4	Entire length.	34	x	x						Pristine wilderness stream with cascades and waterfalls. Rises in the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Some kayaking. Almost totally undeveloped.

River Name	Physio Section	Counties	Congress Districts	Segment Reach Description	Length	ORV								Narrative Description of Values
						Scenic	Recreation	Geologic	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	
Wind River	23b	Skamania	4	Entire length.	29			x	x					Swift stream flowing through interesting volcanic terrain, including some hot springs areas. Important summer steelhead resource.
Yakima River	23a 20a	Kittitas Yakima	4	From Crystal Springs to Lake Easton; River Mile 190 to confluence with Cle Elum River; from Teanaway, WA to Highway I-90 at Ellensburg and from Zillah to Prosser.	9 6 28 44		x	x	x	x				Scenic, geologically interesting rugged canyon displaying entrenched meanders and cutting through folded basalt. Fish and wildlife (notably bird) habitat; one of few potential wild trout producers. Considerable canoeing, some rafting and kayaking. Very popular swimming and tubing river. Dense and diverse riparian zone. Lower portion displays wide flood-plain characteristics.